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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(s): Bernard et al.

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FILING DATE: December 10, 2001 EXAMINER: Knauss, S.

TITLE: MODULAR OPTOELECTRONIC CONNECTOR

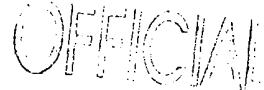
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RESPONSEI. INTRODUCTION

This is responsive to the Office Action dated September 16, 2003. Claims 16-33 remain in the application. Claims 17-20, 23 and 29-32 have been allowed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claims 16, 21, 22, 24 - 28, and 33. No Amendment is being made in this response. The claims pending in this application are included herein for the convenience of the Examiner.